

and survey in nature conservation 39), states that the species has its stronghold in the New Forest and Windsor and referred to other sites in Dorset, Essex, Surrey and Warwickshire. Chandler, 1969 (The Hover-flies of Kent. *Transactions of the Kent Field Club* 3:139-202) considered that *P. anthracina* was a species unlikely to be found in Kent. The larvae are now known to develop in sap runs on trees (Stubbs, 1996. *British Hoverflies*, second supplement. British Entomological and Natural History Society).

Numerous specimens of *Oscinella* were also swept during the visit, including several *O. maura* (Fall.) which is conspicuous because of its white arista. A single female with darkened wings was at first thought to a teratological form of the latter as here the arista was much thickened (considerably more so than in the genus *Elachiptera*) and covered with dark pubescence. Using the key by Collin (1946. The British genera and species of Oscinellinae (Diptera, Chloropidae). *Transactions of the Royal Entomological Society of London* 97: 117-148), the specimen readily ran to *Melanochaeta capreolus* (Haliday). Collin stated "...except for its arista, might easily pass as a species of *Oscinella*" and he had personally taken the species in three different localities in Cambridgeshire in May and June. Dr J. Ismay (pers. comm.) has additional records from Berkshire, Herefordshire, Lancashire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Yorkshire.

The discovery of these two individuals raises the number of Syrphidae recorded from the county to 194 species and Chloropidae to 123.—LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St. John's Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

Another record of the bee-wolf, *Philanthus triangulum* (Fabr.) (Hym.: Sphecidae) in urban central London

On 5 August 1999, I netted an unusual-looking wasp from a narrow and undistinguished scrubby stretch of trees, mainly ornamentals, lining the railway trackside at Parson's Green, London (grid reference TQ 249766). It proved to be the bee-wolf *Philanthus triangulum*. Although listed as "Vulnerable" (RDB2) by Else & Spooner (1987. *Philanthus triangulum*, the bee wolf. In: Shirt, D. B. (Ed.) *British red data books: 2. Insects*. Nature Conservancy Council) and Falk (1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened bees, wasps and ants of Great Britain*. Nature Conservancy Council), this characteristic insect has now spread widely. Else (1997. *Philanthus triangulum* (Fabricius, 1775). In Edwards, R. (Ed.) *Provisional atlas of the aculeate Hymenoptera of Britain and Ireland. Part 1*. Biological Records Centre) demonstrates this remarkable increase and even relates a record from central London at Battersea Bridge roundabout. The wasp's appearance on the other side of the Thames just goes to confirm that when an insect starts to spread, it can find a foothold in even the unlikeliest of sites. In London, these unlikely sites are often scrappy bits of rough ground, usually derelict or disturbed. Here is another tick in the list of unusual species associated with ruderal plots, that enthusiastic euphemism for "wasteland".—RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ. (bugmanjones@hotmail.com).